



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **ICE FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS ARREST FLORIDA DOCTOR FOR IGNORING FLIGHT ATTENDANT INSTRUCTIONS**

*Florida man's drunken behavior resulted in flight's return to gate, his arrest*

Queens, N.Y. — A doctor from Leesburg, Fla., who allegedly disregarded several requests by flight attendants to put away the liquor bottle from which he was drinking and return to his assigned seat was arrested Sunday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Federal Air Marshals at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

According to a criminal complaint filed in the Eastern District of New York, Akram Ismail was a passenger on Delta Airlines Song Flight #2029, which was scheduled from JFK to Orlando, Fla., at 5:15 PM Sunday evening. After the flight doors closed, several off-duty flight attendants noticed Ismail take out a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream and drink from the bottle. The flight attendants advised Ismail that he was not allowed to do so, but he ignored the warning. Instead, Ismail moved from his assigned seat to an exit row and continued to drink from the bottle.

After a second warning by the off-duty flight attendants was ignored, a working flight attendant convinced Ismail to return to his seat. As Ismail did, he commented that he enjoyed abusing flight attendants.

As the plane was taxiing towards the runway and the flight crew was reviewing the plane's safety features, Ismail again got up from his seat and walked up the aisle toward the front of the plane. The flight attendant told Ismail several times to return to his seat, but he instead took a seat in the front row of the plane and continued to argue with the flight attendant.

When he was notified of Ismail's behavior, the pilot returned the plane to the gate. Ismail became more belligerent as the plane returned to the gate.

Upon arrival at the gate, Ismail refused to leave the plane. An ICE Federal Air Marshal assigned to the flight stepped in. The Federal Air Marshal identified himself and twice told Ismail that if he did not leave the plane voluntarily, he would be arrested. After another refusal, the Federal Air Marshals arrested Ismail and removed him from the flight.

Ismail was arraigned in the U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, N.Y., on charges of interfering with the duties of a flight attendant and assault. The arraignment took place on Monday afternoon in front of U.S. magistrate Robert M. Levy at the U.S. Courthouse, 225 Cadman Plaza East, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Ismail was released on \$100,000 unsecured bond. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Walter Norkin.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*